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**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

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August 11, 2015

Mr. Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Please accept this request for Secretarial Disaster Designation for the following Wisconsin counties that have suffered crop losses due to a late frost and freeze event in May 2015: Langlade, Lincoln and Marathon Counties.

Wisconsin, the Nation's leading producer of Ginseng, experienced below-freezing temperatures as low as 26 degrees in the central part of the state. As a result, frost settled below the growing shades and destroyed over 1030 acres of ginseng in various stages of growth from May 17 through June 6, 2015. All counties impacted experienced harvest losses of 28% and seed losses of 50%+. Since most growers harvest ginseng the third year after planting from the seed, this event will impact the state for years to come.

Wisconsin producers are in need of assistance from USDA to help them deal with their losses. Please respond quickly with the designation so that the affected producers may obtain relief.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker  
Governor